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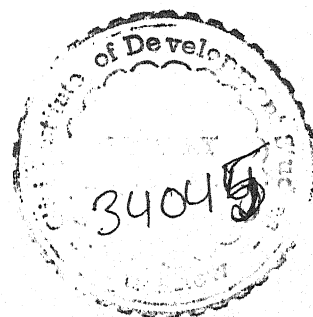
MONITORING AND APPRAISAL OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN:

A Report of Shrawasti District, Uttar Pradesh

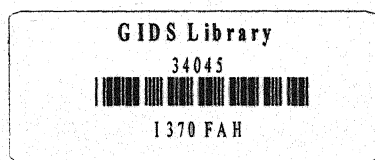
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MONITORING AND APPRAISAL OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN:

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1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Universalization of elementary education is the constitutional commitment in India. Efforts have been made in the past to achieve the goal but despite spectacular quantitative expansion of educational facilities, the goal is still a distant dream. The focus of the programmes like the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and recently launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is on decentralized planning process with emphasis on disaggregated target setting and participatory planning approach. District is considered as a spatial unit of decentralized planning. To develop district elementary education plans, a variety of activities need to be initiated at different levels among which diagnosis of present status of educational development in the district is the important one. The diagnosis exercise helps the district planning team in identifying educationally backward areas, focus groups and major problems in the districts. This needs analysis of a variety of information. The information in the raw form serves only the limited purpose unless the same is converted in the indicator form. Reliable annual or the perspective plan can not be developed unless demographic and enrolment projection exercises are undertaken.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the recent initiative of the Government of India to achieve the goal of universalisation of Elementary Education. The main objective of

SSA is to achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2007 and universal elementary education by 2010. It also envisaged to bring back all un-enrolled, out of school, never enrolled and dropped out children by 2003 to schools. To bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010 are the other objectives of SSA. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an effort to universalize elementary education by community-ownership of the school system. SSA is also an attempt to provide an opportunity for improving human capabilities to the poorest children, through community-owned quality education in a mission mode.

For successful implementation of a programme, an effective monitoring system is essential. Monitoring is a mechanism to identify periodically the bottlenecks in implementing the programme and to take remedial measures to improve the effectiveness of the programme when the programme is still on. For effective monitoring system, an efficient management information system is essential without which neither the progress can be properly analyzed nor the corrective measures can be undertaken. Keeping in view the importance of the programme, a number of provisions are made in the SSA framework with emphasis on transparent community based EMIS and monitoring system. In the sequence of monitoring of seventeen districts of Uttar Pradesh, we selected Shravasti district for the monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Our Institute (GIDS Lucknow) has already covered five districts namely – Sitapur, Bahraich, Unnao, Barabanki and Rae Bareilly out of seventeen districts of U.P. to be monitored.

1.2 METHODOLOGY ADOPTED:

The report of monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of district Shrawasti has been prepared on the basis of intensive field survey and on the basis of documents/information collected from the district headquarter (BSA Office) as well as from two selected blocks. Discussions were held with the ABSAs and their team of district co-ordinators, the officials of DIET. Two blocks of Shrawasti district namely Gilaula and Ikauna were selected and from each block two primary and two upper primary schools were covered. Although, Shrawasti is a new district, carved out from the Bahraich district but the BSA of Bahraich is looking after the work of Shrawasti as well. It has been reported that the headquarter of Shrawasti district is located at Bhinga Tehsil but practically Bahraich is still controlling headquarter of Shrawasti district.

To get district and block level information and data, we started our tour on may, 10th, 2005, from Shiksha Bhawan, Bahraich. At the BSA, office we met Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Asstt. B.S.A., Mr. R.K. Singh A.A.O. and the officials of our two selected blocks of Shrawasti district, Mr. Ramchet Dept. B.S.A. who is the incharge of SSA, Gilaula block and Mr. Bhagwan Das Srivastava, Asstt. BSA, who is the incharge of SSA of Ikauna block of Shrawasti district. Mr. Subhas Pandey, district Co-ordinator has also provided us some valuable data on SSA and information regarding the working of DITE and training programmes. Mr. Pandey informed us that DITE of Shrawasti district has not started any activity yet i.e., training programmes or classes as no teacher has been appointed there except the Principal who was on leave since he joined office, a day

before our visit on May 10th, 2005. All the training programmes for Shrawasti district under SSA, were conducted at the DITE of Bahraich district.

Two blocks namely, Gilaula and Ikauna of Shrawasti district were selected and from each block two primary and two upper primary schools were covered for the monitoring purpose. The attendance registers, monthly meeting registers, performance of teachers and general performance of students, grant received or not etc., were checked thoroughly. Also we have checked infrastructure facilities i.e., number of class rooms, Head master's room, verandah, store room, toilets, hand pumps for drinking water, boundary wall, cleanliness of school building etc. on the spot. Performance of students was checked through direct interaction with students in the schools.

1.3 A BRIEF PROFILE OF SHRAWASTI DISTRICT:

Shrawasti is a district separated from Bahraich district. It is also a historical place, where Gautam Buddha had visited and worshiped. A number of Buddha temples and his followers are there. It has 2 Tehsils and 5 blocks. Now-a-days Bhinga Tehsil is the temporary headquarter of Shrawasti district, which is 40 Km. away from Bahraich. There are 513 revenue villages and 54 Nyaya Panchayats. The total geographical area of the district is 1,858 sq. Km. According to census 2001 the total population of the district is 8,56,285. A section of this population 33,356 is living in urban part of the district and 8,22,929 is living in rural part of the district. SC/ST population of the district is 1,54,575 (Table 1).

Table-1 : Brief Profile of Shrawasti District

Number of Tehsils	2
Number of Blocks	5
Number of Nyaya Panchayats	54
Number of Revenue Villages	513
Total Geographical Area (Sq. Km.)	1858
Population (Census 2001)	
Rural	8,22,929
Urban	33,356
Total	8,56,285
SC/ST	1,54,575

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

The literacy percentage of Shrawasti district is very poor in comparison with U.P. State and country. According to Census 2001, total literacy rate of the district was 24.6 percent while it was fairly lower than the state literacy rate, which was 57.36 percent and far below than the National literacy rate of 65.38 percent. It has been informed that the literacy rate among female, which was only 12.8 percent in the district, was lowest in comparison with the literacy rate of other districts in the State as-well-as in the country (Table-2).

Table-2: Literacy Percentage of Shrawasti District, U.P. and India 2001

Item	Shrawasti District	Uttar Pradesh	India
Male	34.7	70.23	75.85
Female	12.8	40.98	54.16
Total	24.6	57.36	65.38

Source: Census, 2001.

1.4 PARISHAD SCHOOLS :

In Shrawasti district, 856 Parishad Schools are working. Out of which 641 are primary and 215 are upper primary or Junior Basic Schools. Total enrolment in these schools are 1,34,748 out of which 1,24,137 were enrolled in primary schools and 10,611 were enrolled in upper-primary schools. The total sanctioned posts for teachers in these schools are 2,884 out of which 2,111 are for the primary teachers and 773 posts are for the upper primary teachers. However, the actual strength of teachers was found very low and was 681 teachers working in primary schools and 158 teachers working in upper primary schools. The total number of Shiksha Mitras were 1,537. Table-3 clearly indicates that teachers required according to enrolment are below in parishad schools, particularly in upper primary schools where total number of teachers (158) were found to be lower as against the total number of teachers in upper primary schools (215).

**Table-3 : Details About Schools, Teachers And Enrolment
(Parishad Schools)**

Type of School	No. of Schools	Total Enrolment	Sanctioned Posts of Teachers	Actual Strength	No. of Shiksha Mitra
Primary	641	1,24,137	2,111	681	1,537
Jr. Basic	215	10,611	773	158	—
Total	856	1,34,748	2,884	839	1,537

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

1.5 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLING:

Besides the Parishad Schools, Shrawasti district also had a target to open 80 Vidya Centres and 40 Maktab/Madarsas, under alternative schooling scheme. It has been found that 18 Vidya Centres out of 80 centres were closed, due to the opening of Primary Schools and 5 Maktab Madarsa were closed due to the resignation of teachers. 62 Vidya Centres and 35 Maktab Madarsas are working in Shrawasti district. 3,365 students are enrolled in these 62 Vidya Centres and 2,780 are enrolled in 35 Maktab. As for as Bridge Courses are concerned, it has been informed by the BSA officials, that no target was allotted in girls education for the financial year 2004-2005. So no activity could be performed in this direction. The details of unrecognized schools is not available.

Table-4 : Details of Alternative Schooling in Shrawasti District

Sl.	Model	Target	Achievement	Enrolment	Remarks
1.	E.G.S. (i) Vidya Centre (ii) Rishi Valley (iii) Maktab	80 Nil 40	62 Nil 35	3,365 Nil 2,780	18 closed due to the primary schools 5 closed due to the resignation of teachers
2.	Non-residential Bridge courses	Nil	Nil	Nil	-----
3.	Residential Bridge Courses	Nil	Nil	Nil	-----
4.	AIE Junior Basic	Nil	Nil	Nil	-----
5.	Any other Courses	Nil	Nil	Nil	-----
	Total	120	97	6,145	-----

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

1.6 DETAILS OF CHILDREN BASED ON THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (2004) :

At the end of June, 2004, 12.37 percent children in the age group 6-14 years were non-enrolled. This was primarily so because a large number of children were from the age group of 6-11 years and constituted those children who had just attained the age of 6 years. However, even in the age group of 11-14 years were sufficient number of non-enrolled children. It has been informed by the officials of the B.S.A. that the bridge courses for the older age group could not be conducted due to non-allotment of target for the financial year 2004-2005. It was also reported that the teachers and the members of the VEC started a movement called 'School Chalo Abhiyan' during the financial year. As a result of this 'School Chalo Abhiyan' the enrolment by the end of September 2004, showed a encouraging result. However on the day of our visit which pre-planned and pre-informed only quite few students were present in the schools which shows that the real enrollment has remained negligible. We have observed that the impact of such campaign in the district is very negligible. Therefore, what remains a serious problem of the SSA in the district is to increase the enrollment and regularity in attendance and retention of children (Table-5). Under the SSA Programme, special focus has been accorded to the education of girl child. The teachers of the schools where we visited reported to have distributed cycles, swings and books to the needy girls. But we found a low presence of girls in different classes and it appeared to us that nothing serious has been done to improve the girl's education in the district. Three important aspects of the SSA programme are not being taken seriously by the concerned education officials of the district, though the exceptions were noticed when some of the officers were found to be serious about the

SSA, like the one Mr. Bhagwan Das Srivastva, the incharge of the Ikauna block. What we are convinced is that if the present apathy and negligence of the BSA and his team of officials continue, the whole Programme of the SSA will yield no result in terms of improving the education level of the district and the efforts and money will go down the drain as has generally happened in case of other development programmes of the government.

Table-5 : Detail of Children, Based on Household Survey (2004)

Age Group wise No. of Children	Actual No. As per Household Survey	Children* Enrolled as on June 30, 2004	Out of School Children as on June 30, 2004	Out of School Children as on Sept 30, 2004	Percentage of Non-enrolled Children as on June 30, 2004	Percentage of Non-enrolled Children as on Sept 30, 2004
6-11 years						
Boys	83597	74185	9412	52	11.26	0.06
Girls	62290	54152	8138	45	13.06	0.07
Total	1,45,887	1,28,337	17,550	97	12.03	0.07
11-14 years						
Boys	34288	30234	4054	57	11.82	0.17
Girls	23367	19797	3570	56	15.28	0.24
Total	57655	50031	7624	113	13.22	0.20
6-14 years						
Boys	117885	104419	13466	109	11.42	0.09
Girls	85657	73949	11708	101	13.67	0.12
Total	203542	178368	25174	210	12.37	0.10

*Enrolment includes total enrolment in Parishad as well as non-parishad schools.

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

1.7 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN SHRAWASTI DISTRICT AND SELECTED BLOCKS :

It has been found that the total handicapped children in age group of 6-14 in Shrawasti district were 1,778, out of which 1,173 were boys and 605 were girls. 170

children were suffering from eye problem out of which 103 were boys and 67 were girls. Hearing impaired children were 111 out of which 78 were boys and 33 were girls. The total children were having speaking problem were 154, out of these 95 were boys and 59 were girls. The children were having learning disability were 153, out of these 105 were boys and 48 were girls. Mentally retarded children were 200, out of which 134 were boys and 66 were girls. The highest number of handicapped children were found to be in the category of physical disability. Physically disable children were 914, out of these 616 children were boys and 298 were girls. Other types of handicapped children were 76, out of which 42 were boys and 34 were girls. (Table-6).

Table-6 : Details of Handicapped Children in Shrawasti District During 2004-2005

Sl.	Disability	Boys		Girls		Total
		6-11 years	11-14 ears	6-11 years	11-14 years	
1.	Eye Problem	69	34	58	09	170
2.	Hearing Impaired	52	26	23	10	111
3.	Speaking Problem	68	27	48	11	154
4.	Learning Disability	73	32	35	13	153
5.	Mentally Retarded	95	39	43	23	200
6.	Physical Disability	462	154	212	86	914
7.	Others	24	18	24	10	76
	Total	843	330	443	162	1778

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

1.8 Sample Blocks:

Two blocks namely – Gilaula and Ikauna of Shrawasti district has been taken for the monitoring of SSA programme. In Gilaula block a total number of 287 children in the age group of age group 6-14, were found handicapped, during the year 2004-

2005. Out of these children, 204 were boys and 83 were girls. They were suffering from different types of disability. 21 children were having eye problem, 6 were having hearing problem, 19 were having speaking problem, 9 were having learning disability, 22 were mentally retarded and 210 children were physically disable (Table-7).

Table-7 : Details of Handicapped Children in Gilaula Block of Shrawasti District During 2004-2005

Sl.	Disability	Boys		Girls		Total
		6-11 years	11-14 years	6-11 years	11-14 years	
1.	Eye Problem	8	5	5	3	21
2.	Hearing Impaired	3	2	1	0	6
3.	Speaking Problem	7	5	5	2	19
4.	Learning Disability	4	3	2	0	9
5.	Mentally Retarded	13	2	5	2	22
6.	Physical Disability	121	31	43	15	210
7.	Others	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	156	48	61	22	287

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

The handicapped children in Ikauna block of Shrawasti district were found higher in number than the handicapped children in Gilauna block during the year 2004-2005. The total number of handicapped children in Ikauna block were 440. Out of these 275 children were boys and 165 children were girls. These children were suffering from different types of disability. 19 children were having eye problem, 39 were having hearing problem, 15 were having speaking problem, 65 were physically disabled and 37 children were having the other types of disability. (Table-8).

Table-8 : Details of Handicapped Children in Ikauna Block of Shrawasti District During 2004-2005

Sl.	Causes	Boys		Girls		Total
		6-11 years	11-14 years	6-11 years	11-14 years	
1.	Eye Problem	7	4	8	0	19
2.	Hearing Impaired	19	6	10	4	39
3.	Speaking Problem	3	4	7	1	15
4.	Learning Disability	30	13	15	7	65
5.	Mentally Retarded	8	4	8	4	24
6.	Physical Disability	108	52	57	24	241
7.	Others	13	4	17	3	37
	Total	188	87	122	43	440

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

Out of a total of 1,778 handicapped children as many as 1690 (95 percent) have been enrolled in the schools. The information provided by the office of BSA revealed that a sizable number of medical assistance camps were organised for the benefit of these children. The data showed that a number of handicapped children have been provided tricycles, crutches, wheel chairs and hearing aid etc. So far around 70 percent of the children have received medical examination and parents of handicapped children are being provided counseling. Some of the handicapped children have been provided certificates, so that they may take due advantage of medical and other facilities available to them.

1.9 THE SELECTED BLOCKS OF SHRAWASTI DISTRICT :

As already mentioned that the two blocks of Shrawasti district were selected for the purpose of field visit. Those were Gilaula and Ikauna. The temporary official headquarter of Shrawasti district is Bhinga Tehsil. But practically Bahraich district is

controlling all the activities of SSA programme and acting as headquarter of Shrawasti. In case of Gilaula block, it is 36 Km. away from Bhinga Tehsil, the headquarter of Shrawasti and 20 Km. away from Bahraich district. Our second block Ikauna is 52 Km. away from Bhinga Tehsil which is the headquarter of Shrawasti district and 40 Km. away from Bahraich district.

The number of Primary Schools are 142 and 117 in Gilaula and Ikauna blocks respectively. The total regular teachers, taking headmasters and assistant teachers together in Gilaula and Ikauna blocks are 178 and 138 respectively. The number of Shiksha Mitra in Gilaula are 115. Also, a number of 115 Shiksha Mitras are working in Ikauna block. Taking Headmasters, Assistant teachers and shiksha Mitra altogether the total number of teachers in Gilaula block are 293 and in Ikauna block are 253. As a matter of fact, there is an shortage of regular teacher both at the primary and upper-primary level. The situation is more sever in case of Ikauna block. The block has 117 primary schools but only 138 regular teachers are there. Although, there are 115 Shiksha Mitras working but they are not a better alternative to a regular teachers. The situation gets even worse when we look at the upper primary schools of both the blocks. The total number of upper primary schools in Gilaula are 39 and the same number of schools (39) are in Ikauna block. The total number of regular teachers in Gilaula are 26 while total number of regular teachers in Ikauna are 33. The total number of teachers are less than the total number of upper primary schools in both the blocks of the district (Table-9). In such a situation, one can easily understand that how the normal teachings would be possible in these schools. It has been observed that there are a number of children who are enrolled in the primary schools but are also enrolled in privately run schools and actually attending classes there. They however

demand all benefits such as scholarship and free books etc. On the ground that they are enrolled in a Parishad School but are not studying because of the shortage of teachers. When Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) lays so much emphasis on enrolment, retention, regularity and quality of education, it is rather difficult to conceive how this can be effectively managed in the given situation.

Table-9 : Information Related to Selected BRC: Under SSA Programme

Information	Gilaula	Ikauna
Primary School		
(i) Number of Schools	142	117
(ii) Head Master	77	57
(iii) Assistant Teachers	101	81
(iv) Shiksha Mitra	115	115
(v) Total Teachers	293	253
(vi) Enrolment Total	27928	24038
Boys	15122	12680
Girls	12806	11358
(vii) School Grading A	19	40
B	109	68
C	14	9
Upper Primary Schools		
(i) Number of Schools	39	39
(ii) Number of Head Masters	3	6
(iii) Number of Teachers	23	27
(iv) Total Teachers	26	33
(v) Enrolment Total	1420	1243
Boys	914	994
Girls	506	249

Source: Office of the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Bahraich District.

1.10 SAMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITED BY US :

We first visited the Gilaula Primary School, which is situated at the side of the local market on the main road. It has been found that the highest number of students (332) were enrolled in Gilaula Primary School out of four primary schools we visited.

The second primary school of Gilaula block was Auraiya Nidhan Primary School. 174 students were enrolled in this school. At Ikauna block, it has been found that 195 students were enrolled in Bedora Musrikh Primary School and 306 students were enrolled in Vishunapur Primary School. The total number of regular teachers in Gilaula Primary School were 5 along with 2 Shiksha Mitras. In Auraiya Nidhan Primary School, 2 regular teachers were working along with 1 Shiksha Mitra. In Bedora Misrikh Primary School of Ikauna block, 1 regular teacher and 1 Shiksha Mitra were working. In Vishunapur Primary School 1 regular teacher and 1 Shiksha Mitra was teaching.

The shortage of teachers is reflected from the high teacher student ratio, which is much higher than the required norms of one teacher for every 40 students. This problem is much higher specially in the Ikauna block. We visited Bedora Musrikh Primary and Vishunapur Primary, the teacher and student ratio was 1:98 and 1:156 respectively. When teacher student ratio is adverse it is normally not possible to get a good quality of education. This gap needs to be filled by appointing more trained teachers so that the quality of education can be improved.

The performance of students in the primary schools of Gilaula and Bedora Musrikh was found to be below the average. Performance of the children in Auraiya Nidhan of Gilaula block was found just average. However, in Vishunapur Primary School of Ikauna block was rather below average or poor. On the whole, we found the performance of students of sample schools generally not up to the mark.

As far the infrastructural facilities are concerned, the Gilaula primary school was the worst. The environment was the most un-hygienic and the place was not worth to run a primary school. It was observed by us that the carelessness of the teachers was

the sole cause of the bad conditions in the schools. The toilets for boys and girls were found in every primary school except in the primary school Auraiya Nidhan no toilet was there. The staff of the school informed us that they are going to construct it shortly. It was observed that toilets were used by the students only in few of the cases. Handpumps Mark-4 were found in every primary school except again in Auraiya Nidhan where one handpump was there but was not in working condition. Boundary wall of the school was found only in the Gilaula Primary School, that too may not be called the boundary wall. It was good to see that the schools of the Ikauna block were generally well maintained and had been properly white washed. But the general situation was bad in the primary schools of the Gilaula block in all terms. All sorts of grants have been received by all the primary schools we visited. The number of students were present on the day of our visit was very less except in Bedora Musrikh Primary School and was 68.4 percent. The lowest attendance, which was 16.3 percent found in Gilaula Primary School (Table-10). As maintained in the register, the VEC meetings have been held regularly in all schools visited by us. The issues that were noted in the register were the provision of mid-day-meal, scholarships of children and quality of education etc. There is every doubt to the authenticity of such meetings in the situation when the teachers have not been found to perform normal functions, how they can call the VEC meeting with such a regularity and discuss the serious issues. It has been found that the overall enrolment level in the registers of different classes has been shown very high and there are very few children who have remained still non-enrolled. But we feel that there are every reason to disbelieve the figures of such high enrollment.

Table-10 : Details of Primary Schools Visited by us

Details	Gilaula Block	Gilaula Block	Ikauna Block	Ikauna Block
	School-1	School-2	School-1	School-2
Village	Gilaula	Auraiya Nidhan	Bedora Musrikh	Vishunapur
Distance from Shrawasti (Head Quarter Bhinga in Km.)	36	26	57	60
Date of our visit	12.5.05	12.5.05	13.5.05	13.5.05
Number of regular teachers	5	2	1	1
Number of Shiksha Mitra	2	1	1	1
Total Students	332	174	195	306
Boys	131	100	116	161
Girls	201	74	79	145
Students present on day of visit	54	40	65	150
% of students present	16.3	23.0	68.4	49.0
Average Normal Attendance (%)	82	80	80	80
Number of class rooms	3	3	3	4
Head Master's room	1	1	1	1
Verandah	2	2	1	1
Store	No	No	No	No
Toilets	4	No	2	2
Hand pump	2	1	2	2
Hand pump working	1	No	2	2
Boundary Wall	Yes	No	No	No
Building Properly White Washed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teacher-Pupil ratio	1:46	1:58	1:98	1:153
Number of handicapped children	2	3	1	10
School grading	B	A	A	B
Grant received-Rs.5000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rs.2000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rs.500 per Teacher for TLM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
General Performance of Student	Good	Average	Good	Below Average

Source: Sample Schools of the District.

1.11 DETAILS OF UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS VISITED BY US:

We have covered Ratanapur Upper Primary School and Dikauli Upper Primary School of Gilaula block and Vishuna Upper Primary school and Kanya Upper Primary School of Ikauna block, during our field visit. It has been found that the actual attendance on the day of our visit in these schools was very poor. Only 8.3 percent attendance was found in Ratanapur, 11.6 percent students were present in Dikauna, 42.5 were percent in Vishunapur and 35.2 percent attendance was found in Kanya Upper Primary School Katara. In the attendance register, it has been found that the normal attendance of these schools was 80 percent in Ratanapur, 60 percent in Dikauli, 75 percent in Vishuna and 98 percent in Katara school. The causes of low attendance on the day we visited these schools, as explained by the teachers were the marriage season approaching holidays. But what we could extract out from the discussion with the teachers of these schools was that the low attendance remains the normal situation in all the schools of the district and teachers hardly bother to improve it. The gravity of situation can well be understood that no student of class viii was present on the day of our visit.

In all the upper primary schools we visited, we went around the classes and asked questions related to the subjects they were studying on the day of our visit. We found the performance of children at the average level in all the schools with the exception of school in Ratanapur of Gilaula block where the performance of students was poor. Even in the primary schools we had found the performance to be below average in Vishunapur of Ikauna block. The children were generally well behaved, well mannered and recited songs and answered questions without any problem.

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As far as building and infrastructural facilities for the schools are concerned it was found that most of the buildings of schools were well maintained and white washed except Dikauli Upper Primary School. Every Upper Primary School has a separate room for Headmaster. The numbers of class rooms were 3 in each school, while Kanya Upper Primary Katara was having 4 class rooms. All the room in every school were good enough in size. Every school was having a Verandah in it except it was not there in Dikauli Upper Primary school. Ratanapur and Dikauli Upper Primary schools were having a storeroom for keeping almirah and other belongings of the school while no storeroom was found in Vishunapur Upper Primary and Kanya Upper Primary School of Katara of Ikauna block. Every school was having toilets except Dikauli Upper Primary School. For the drinking water every Upper Primary School was having a handpump mark-4 in the premises of the school and all were in working condition, except Ratanapur Upper Primary was not having hand pump in the premises of the school. Ratanapur and Kanya Upper Primary schools were having a boundary wall around the school building but no boundary wall was there in Dikauli and Vishunapur Upper Primary Schools. One girl in Ratanapur Upper Primary and three girls in Kanya Upper Primary School we found handicapped, suffering from Polio. Most of theml were present on the day we visited to the school (Table-11).

Table-11 : Detail of Upper Primary Schools Visited by us

Details	Gilaula Block	Gilaula Block	Ikauna Block	Ikauna Block
	School-1	School-2	School-1	School-2
Village	Ratanpur	Dikauli	Vishunapur	Girls U.P.S. Katara
Distance from Shrawasti (Head Quarter Bhinga in Km.)	24	21	60	63
Date of our visit	12.5.05	12.5.05	13.5.05	13.5.05
Number of regular teachers	2 (male)	2 (male)	1 (male)	2 (1 male, 1 female)
Students in class vi	101	33	76	35
vii	94	26	5	30
viii	11	10	6	43
Total Students	206	69	87	108
Actual Present on day of visit	17	08	37	38
Attendance %	8.3	11.6	42.5	35.2
Normal Attendance %	80	60	75	98
Teacher-student ratio	1:103	1:35	1:87	1:54
Number of class rooms	3	3	3	4
Head master's room	1	1	1	1
Verandah	1	No	1	1
Store	1	1	No	No
Toilets	2	No	2	1
Hand pump	No	1	1	1
Hand pump working	-----	1	1	1
Boundary Wall	Yes	No	No	Yes
Building Properly White washed	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Number of Handicapped Children	1	No	No	3
General Performance of Students	Poor	Good	Good	Good

Source: Sample Schools.

The class-wise break-up of students in four Primary Schools, two from Gilaula BRC and two from Ikauna BRC, which we have taken from the school registers is given in Table-12.

Table-12 : Class wise Break-up of Students in Primary Schools Visited by us

Class	Sex	BRC Gilaula	BRC Gilaula	BRC Ikauna	BRC Ikauna
I	Boys	6	32	33	25
	Girls	4	33	27	35
	Total	10	65	60	60
II	Boys	39	27	28	33
	Girls	55	18	25	33
	Total	94	45	53	66
III	Boys	41	22	26	40
	Girls	50	8	8	15
	Total	91	30	34	55
IV	Boys	25	14	17	37
	Girls	40	9	10	33
	Total	65	23	27	70
V	Boys	20	5	12	26
	Girls	52	6	9	29
	Total	72	11	21	55
I to V	Boys	131	100	116	161
	Girls	201	74	79	145
	Total	332	174	195	306

Source: Sample Schools.

Again the class-wise break-up of students in four Upper Primary Schools, two from Gilaula BRC and two from Ikauna BRC, which we have taken from the school registers during our field visit is given in Table-13.

Table-13 : Class-wise Break-up of Students in Jr. Basic Schools Visited by us

Class	Sex	BRC Gilaula Ratanapur	BRC Gilaula Dikauli	BRC Ikauna Vishunapur	BRC Ikauna Girls U.P.S. Katara
VI	Boys	54	14	50	
	Girls	44	19	26	35
	Total	101	33	76	35
VII	Boys	59	11	2	----
	Girls	35	15	3	30
	Total	94	26	5	30
VIII	Boys	10	6	4	---
	Girls	1	4	2	43
	Total	11	10	6	43
VI to VIII	Boys	126	31	56	
	Girls	80	38	31	108
	Total	206	69	87	108

1.12 MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME :

Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is a scheme, which is prevailing in all the schools run by the government. This Scheme has also been adopted in Anganbadi as well as in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). In earlier days of SSA programme every child was getting 3 Kilograms of cereals every month as a part of mid-day-meal scheme. The form of this scheme has been changed from October 2004 and children are being given cooked meals. Under this new scheme 100 gms. of cereals have been sanctioned per child per meal and this is made available through the public distribution centres. For the conversion of cereals into cooked food, Rs.1 has been sanctioned per child as to conversion amount. This amount has to be utilized in purchasing material like sugar, salt, spices and cooking medium. Every school has been provided utensils and a shade each to be constructed where food could be cooked. It has been found that the schools have to purchase utensils and sheds have yet to be constructed. A BPL person is normally selected to cook the food. He gets Rs.53 per day. Out of this amount Rs.33 is paid in cash while the rest is in terms of 5 Kg. ration per day. During our field visit, it has been found that every student of the school is getting mid-day-meal during the period of interval. School authorities informed us that they have been instructed by the BSA office to make sure that the same food should not be served every day. Thus variations are introduced in the mid-day-meal and the children were satisfied by what they were getting as we found the schools visited by us.

The details regarding progress of civil works undertaken during 2004-2005 are given in Annexure-1.

1.13 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS :

Shrawasti is a newly formed district separated from Bahraich district. The literacy rates of males, females and of total population in Shrawasti district are very poor in comparison with the literacy rates of U.P. state. For the monitoring purpose we have taken two blocks of the district namely Gilaula and Ikauna and selected two primary as well as two upper primary schools from each block. The total number of primary schools in Gilaula block was found 142 and Ikauna block were 117. It has been found that the total teachers were 178 in Gilaula block and 138 teachers in Ikauna Block. As a matter of fact, acute shortage of regular teachers was found both at the primary and upper primary level. The shortage of regular teachers hinders the quality of education. It has also been observed that the quality of education, which could be evident from the performance of the students during field visit was better both in primary and upper primary levels in Ikauna BRC as compare to Gilaula BRC. Deputy BSA. Mr. Ramchet, who is the overall incharge of Gilaula block, seems to be taking not much interest. On the other hand Mr. Bhagwan Das, ABSA, was found to be paying full attention and taking active part and controlling all the programmes related to SSA in Ikauna block. The BSA of Bahraich district who is also looking after the work of Shrawasti district appears to be devoting insufficient time to look after the SSA Programme in the Shrawasti district.

It was found that the schools were generally well maintained and had been properly white washed in better way in Ikauna block as compared to that of Gilaula block. As evident from the register of VEC that its meetings are being held regularly in

all the schools we visited. The issues being discussed are the provision of mid-day-meal, quality of education and scholarships of students. But we have doubts whether such meetings really take place or it is all a different story. In both primary and upper primary schools infrastructural facilities like toilets, handpumps etc. were found not satisfactory. It has been found that the staff and teachers have conducted a movement called 'School Chalo Abhiyan' in their area to improve and maximise the enrolment in primary schools, which boost-up the enrolments in schools. Since the overall enrolment level is so high, there are very few children who are actually still non-enrolled. Here again the claims are doubtful because only few of the total enrolled children were present on the day we visited these schools.

On the basis of above findings, following suggestions are recommended to revitalize the SSA Programme in Shrawasti district:

1. There is utmost need to appoint a separate BSA and allied staff for the Shrawasti district.
2. The DIET which is more or less non-functional in the district needs to be made operational by appointing the staff.
3. There is need to appoint more regular teachers in large number of schools both primary and upper primary to reduce the high teacher-students ratio.
4. We have observed that the overall standard of primary as well upper primary schools is better in certain areas while it is in poor state in other parts of the district. There is need to identify such weak schools in the district to bring about improvement.
5. The ABSA's of the poor performing schools should be given orientation as how to improve the situation. The transfer of the ABSA's with in different blocks of the district may be thought of. The ABSA's should be made responsible for achieving the good result under the SSA Programme.

6. Despite the availability and utilization of funds for proper infrastructural facilities, the situation has not improved to a satisfactory level. The situation was found to be so bad that certain schools are unfit for the children to study due to un-hygienic conditions. We also noticed that in many schools additional rooms are being constructed but carelessness is so much evident that as if it the responsibility of no body. The teachers of the schools must be held responsible for the proper upkeep and sound environmental and sanitary conditions in the school premises, failing which punitive action may be taken.
7. An increased enrollment after the SSA Programme has been shown in all the schools. The registers like of the VEC meetings are being properly maintained to show that VEC meeting are being held regularly. The genuineness of such claims is doubtful. The BSA should verify such data periodically.

The situation observed by us in the district makes us to feel that the SSA Programme so far has made little breakthrough as far the universalization of elementary education is concerned. If the corrective measures are not taken promptly, the SSA Programme will fail to alleviate the educational backwardness of the Shrawasti district from its present status of being the most educationally backward district of the state.

**Annexure 1. Details Regarding Civil Works Under S.S.A.
In Shrawasthi District**

सर्व शिक्षा अभियान -निर्माण कार्य वर्ष 2004.05

जनपद का नाम - श्रावस्ती

माह का नाम-मई - 2005

क्र.सं.	जनपद का नाम	लक्ष्य	विद्यालयों हेतु पीओएमवाई से प्राप्त अंशदान	अवमुक्त धनराशि(किस्त में)			ले-आउट	25%	50%	75%	पूर्ण	पूर्ण प्रतिशत	विवादित		अभ्युक्ति
				प्रथम	द्वितीय	तृतीय							स्थल	न्यायिक	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	प्राथमिक विद्यालय														
क	नवीन	2					0	0	1	1					
ख	जर्जर पुनर्निर्माण	1	90500				0	0	1						
ग	योग (क+ख)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.00			
2	उ० प्रा० विद्यालय														
क	नवीन	3					0	0	2	1					
ख	जर्जर पुनर्निर्माण	8	1532000				1	1	2	2	2				
ग	योग (क+ख)	11	1532000	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	2	0.00	0	0	
3	शौचालय														
क	प्राथमिक विद्यालय में स्थापित	0													
ख	उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालय में स्थापित	0													
ग	योग (क+ख)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
4	पेयजल	0													
क	प्राथमिक विद्यालय में स्थापित	0													
ख	उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालय में स्थापित	0													
ग	योग (क+ख)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	अतिरिक्त कक्षा-कक्ष														
क	प्राथमिक विद्यालय में स्थापित	86	602000				5	9	14	8	50				
ख	उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालय में स्थापित	8	560000				0	1	1	1	5				
ग	योग (क+ख)	94	1162000	0	0	0	5	10	15	9	55	0	0	0	0

विशेषज्ञ बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी
श्रावस्ती